

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 10-12.

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under § 102 on the basis of Kilmer et al. '656. Claims 6-8 as amended are directed to apparatus for expressing milk. Applicant traverses this rejection because Kilmer is not analogous art, and Kilmer does not disclose (or suggest) an air pump having the features of the pump used in the present invention of amended claims 6-8.

Kilmer describes a portable electric desoldering tool, where claims 6-8 now define breast pumps. The § 102 rejection should be withdrawn because Kilmer does not disclose the milk collector unit or collection vessel of claims 6-8. Moreover, Kilmer would not be a proper reference in a § 103 rejection because it is in a different field, and is therefore not analogous art.

Moreover, Kilmer does not disclose (or suggest) the pump used in the invention of claims 6-8. Amended claim 6 recites a motor that is coupled to a diaphragm through threaded engagement that translates motor rotation into diaphragm oscillation. The examiner cites the threaded shaft 128 in Kilmer with regard to this feature, but the shaft 128 is merely a counter balance threadedly fastened to the shaft 126. The counter balance is used because the shaft 126 rotates eccentrically. In any event, coupling from the motor to the diaphragm is not accomplished through the counter balance, and the counter balance does not translate motor rotation into diaphragm oscillation.

Claim 7 recites, among other things, a motor having a threaded shaft which moves axially. The motor shaft in Kilmer does not move axially.

In amended claim 8, a shaft is in threaded engagement with a diaphragm so that rotation of the shaft moves the diaphragm back and forth. There is no such shaft engaged with the diaphragm in Kilmer. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-8 is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant believes that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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